

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 being independent.

The title has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection. In addition, claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 have been amended to recite that the semiconductor layer comprises crystals in which crystal grain boundaries are substantially aligned in a direction parallel with a length direction of a channel formation region (claims 1, 4 and 13) or with a carrier flow direction between source and drain regions (claims 7, 10 and 16). Support for this amendment may be found in the application at, for example, Fig. 3 and page 22, line 22 to page 24, line 11. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected in view of Yamazaki '969. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Yamazaki '969 does not describe or suggest a semiconductor layer having crystals with crystal grain boundaries substantially aligned in a direction parallel with a length direction of a channel formation region or with a carrier flow direction. Rather, Yamazaki '969 describes an arrangement in which crystal growth proceeds in a direction perpendicular to the substrate, since a crystallization promoting material is added to an entire surface of the semiconductor film and the crystal growth proceeds from the entire surface (see Figs. 3A to 3C and the accompanying text). As a result, crystal grain boundaries in Yamazaki '969 will not be substantially aligned in the directions recited in the independent claims. For at least these reasons, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-18 also have been rejected for double patenting in view of claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 15 and 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,365,933. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because the claims of the '933 patent do not describe or suggest a semiconductor layer having crystals with crystal grain boundaries substantially aligned in a direction parallel with a length direction of a channel formation region or with a carrier flow direction between source and drain regions, as recited in the independent claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.


Applicant : Shunpei Yamazaki et al.
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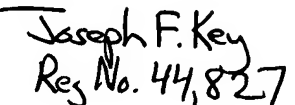
Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-188002 / US
3427/3434D1

Enclosed is a \$880 check (\$110 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee and \$770 for the Request for Continued Examination fee). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/13/2004

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